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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

DDR in General

1. The Amt fuer Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik is the highest information office in the DDR. It is directed by the well-known Communist, Gerhard Wisler, and has its office at 7-8 Thaelmann Platz, Berlin.
2. Under the control of the DDR Information Office are the Hauptabteilungen fuer Information (main information departments) of the governments of the five Laender of the Soviet Zone of Germany. These departments are headed by departmental chiefs ranking as Ministerialdirektoren. Assigned to the information departments of the Laender are Amt fuer Information (information offices) which function on the Kreise level where they are attached to the Landratsamt and, in the case of larger cities, to the Buergermeister offices.

Saxony-Anhalt

3. The Information Department of Land Saxony-Anhalt was established after dissolution of the Soviet press agency (SMB) and its cooperating branch, the Deutsches Institut fuer Sozialoekonomische Probleme (German Institute for problems of political economy). (1) Its office is located in the Regierungsgebaeude (capitol building of the State) on Wilhelm-Lohmann Strasse in Halle. Chief of the Information Department in Saxony-Anhalt is Mrs Hoffmeister (fmu), who formerly was on the managerial staff of the SMB in Halle. Deputy chief is Helmut Menzel, formerly chief of the Land labor office in Saxony-Anhalt. During the period of this report, Menzel was suspended, allegedly because he had supported press attacks against the Soviet Occupation Power.
4. It is reported that the Saxony-Anhalt Information Department is composed of the following sections: Political Section, headed by Mrs. Hoffmeister; Economic & Traffic Section, headed by Helmut Menzel; Communal & Finance Section, headed by Herta Kilzel, and Cultural Section (including propaganda

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National Front, film, press, radio), headed by Oberregierungsrat Schiller (fmu). Additional sections were still in the process of being organized. Appointment of personnel for this department is a difficult task, inasmuch as only persons who were not prisoners of war of the Western Powers and who have no relatives in Western Germany are eligible.

5. Information offices in the Landratsamt, and in the Buergermeister offices of the larger cities, administered independent of a Landkreis, are organized according to a structure similar to that of the information department on the Land level. They are charged with submitting information on outstanding political events, the attitude of the population, abuses in economy and administration, and reactionary activities.

Mecklenburg

6. The Information Department of Land Mecklenburg is located in the Land capitol building (Regierungsgebäude) on Schlossstrasse in Schwerin (C 5h/T 46). Its chief is Rudi Ferner. The office consists of the following five sections:

- a. Section I - Information Control. This section is charged with maintaining contact with the individual Landkreise for the purpose of collecting information. It is headed by Karl Hans Hempel who is 35 years old, tall, has light-brown hair, and is a staunch SED member. (2) He supervises the following instructors (Instruktoren): Heinz Pick, an SED member; Joachim Herberger, an SED member; Neumann (fmu), an SED member; and an additional unidentified instructor from the CDU. Also attached to this section is a woman from the SED who serves as evaluation officer.
- b. Section II - Film, Radio and Press. This section has charge of political control and surveillance, is headed by Wollermann (SED), and includes two case officers one of whom is Mrs. Schulz, (fmu). (3)
- c. Section III - Politics and Economics. This section has charge of political control and surveillance and is headed by an SED member named Lehmann (fmu), who is 33 years old, medium-sized, and fair-haired.
- d. Section IV - Shows (variety shows and cabarets). This section has charge of political control and surveillance of said entertainment activities. It is headed by an SED member named Leben (fmu), who is 35 years old, tall, and has light brown hair. Mrs. Voltmann (fmu), wife of the Landtagspräsident, acts as a case officer. (4)
- e. Section V - Theatricals. This section has not yet been established.

7. In the field of information control Section I is assigned the following missions:

- a. Observe the activities of the National Front committees, both local and Kreis, with particular emphasis on relations with the West and their effects.
- b. Observe the Machinery Exchange Stations (MAS), with particular emphasis on the political efficiency in communal work of the respective MAS leaders.
- c. Observe FDJ and similar youth activities including denominational youth organizations which may effect the FDJ adversely.

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- d. Observe the activities of the so-called differentiation commissions (Differenzierungs-Kommissionen) which are responsible for establishing delivery quotas for farmers.
- e. Accomplish special missions such as exploring the mood of the Berlin population during the FDJ Whitsun rally. Three SED instructors (Instruktoren) together with chief case officers (Chefforenenten) were sent to Berlin for that purpose where they reported directly to the Berlin information office. Similarly, agents and other associates of the information department were sent to the Mecklenburg cattle show in May 1950 to observe the sentiments of those in attendance.

General Functions and Practices

- 8. In reporting, great value is placed by all offices and associates of the information-service on reports which contain accurate specific data such as names. Inaccurate or vague reports are refused.
- 9. The information department furnishes appropriate propaganda material to newspapers in the DDR. This material includes general information which is compiled from miscellaneous press information and from specially edited summaries. It also includes newspaper material from the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, such as economic information supplied by the Polish information service. Aside from articles based on information department material, DDR newspapers are not permitted to print any information other than local. Information department material is also sent to the following offices in West Germany:
 - a. Parteivorstand, Landesleitungen and Kreisvorstaende of the KPD.
 - b. KPD chief Instruktoren.
 - c. Chief editors of KPD newspapers published in Western Germany.

Comments.

- (1) The Deutsches Institut fuer Sozialoekonomische Probleme began functioning in 1947, closely cooperating with the SED and the TASS in Germany. Its personnel consisted of former Soviet officers, allegedly KGB or MVD members, and German employees. The institute has repeatedly been characterized as a cover organization of Soviet IS, besides actively engaging in espionage in all fields. It is said to have been charged with fabricating fake material for newspapers in the Western areas and propagating Soviet ideas generally. The institute was allegedly located on Sonstrasse, Guestraw (A 51/1 98).
- (2) One Henpel (fma) of Schwerin, was known to be a prominent SED member in Mecklenburg and deputy chief of an unidentified economic organization in Mecklenburg.
- (3) In March 1949 one Fritz Mollmann, upon his release from a Soviet PW camp conveyed formal greetings to the SED Central Secretariat on behalf of released PWs.
- (4) Mrs. Mollmann's husband, Fritz Mollmann, is a veteran SED member and is now president of the Mecklenburg Landtag, second chairman of the Mecklenburg Landesleitung, and a member of the SED Parteivorstand.

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